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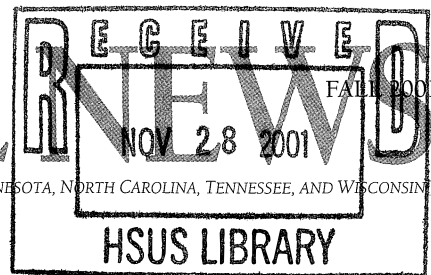
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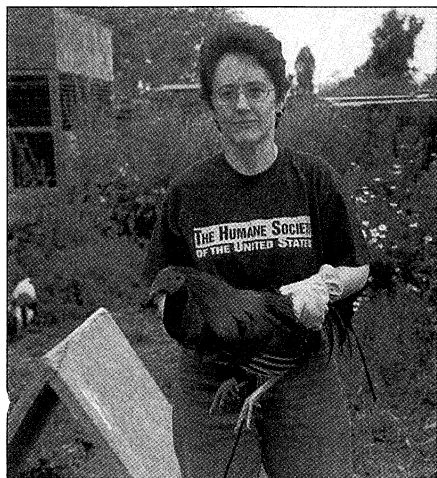


CSRO Helps with Huge Cockfighting Raid

Lynn Mooney, CSRO program coordinator, participated in one of the largest cockfighting raids ever in the United States. Officers found more than 2,500 fighting birds, several bloody fighting pits, and an extensive collection of cockfighting paraphernalia on a 20-acre ranch in the rural San Ysidro section of San Diego. Men, women, and children scrambled to escape or hide and were even found in trees as the 70 officers and workers searched the property. Officers made 18 arrests on charges of owning fighting birds and paraphernalia.

Once the police had secured the site, Mooney helped local agents find evidence and identify its importance to the case. She also helped in the painstaking work of cataloging the evidence. In addition to documenting all of the paraphernalia, each bird was photographed and given a numbered leg band. Many birds bore injuries, including deep puncture wounds, consistent with cockfighting. "Cockfight-
continued on page 2

CSRO Program Coordinator Lynn Mooney with a fighting rooster.



HSUS Responds to Minnesota Disasters

When the call came from Minnesota, CSRO was already involved in disaster planning, and the time spent on that planning paid off immensely when the state asked CSRO to mobilize a team to respond to animal needs arising from severe flooding. HSUS set up a command center in Fargo, North Dakota, where we coordinated our efforts throughout the upper Midwest. HSUS ultimately had several teams on the ground, including specialists in emergency shelter set-up and search and rescue.

CSRO Program Coordinator Lynn Mooney assisted the Wilkins County emergency manager in creating a plan for the care of pets if the city of Breckenridge should be evacuated. We also worked closely with neighboring Humane Society of Otter Tail County, which offered to host the evacuated pets. The HSUS team helped devise sheltering plans to accommodate the large number of flood victims. They also helped attract volunteers and contributions.

Mooney assisted in the rescue of an Argusville, North Dakota, resident and her two dogs and two birds. The woman had initially chosen not to evacuate, but water subsequently surrounded her home. The HSUS team of search and rescue specialists worked in conjunction with the Cass County Sheriff's Department to bring her and her companion animals to safety.

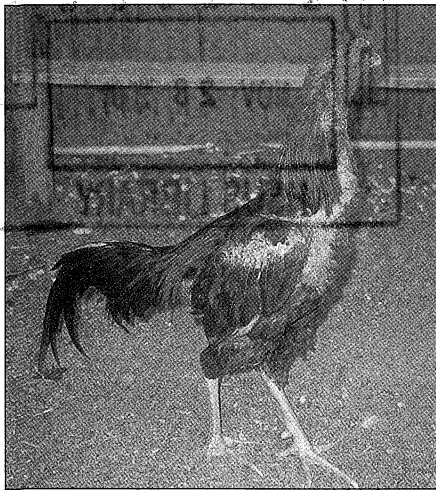
CSRO Regional Representative Arnold Baer coordinated communications for the entire effort from his base in Wisconsin. In addition, he communicated daily with the Minnesota Division of Emergency Management (DEM). DEM sought to ensure



CSRO Regional Representative Arnold Baer assists Minnesota Horse Council Area Coordinator Anne Ness in assessing the health of horses in Brainerd, Minnesota, who were evacuated because of tornadoes.

that all the voluntary organizations, including The HSUS and the American Red Cross, had up-to-date information and a coordinated strategy for response. Building on the success of those briefings, Baer then initiated conference calls that focused specifically on animal issues and included not only HSUS team members, but also the Minnesota Animal Control Association and the American Humane Association, both members of the state disaster planning coalition.

When tornadoes hit the upper Midwest a few weeks later, Baer drove to Brainerd, Minnesota, where he joined a representative from the Minnesota Horse Council to assess the needs of 18 horses who had been evacuated from their owners' farms. A nearby stable had volunteered its facility and was temporarily housing the animals, and the Minnesota Horse Council had purchased \$400 worth of hay. Based on Baer's assessment, The HSUS donated money to cover the cost of the horses' additional needs, such as a feeding station, water trough, and medical supplies. The next day, Baer responded to a call from the Humane Society of Burnett County in Siren,
continued on page 2



This rooster shows some of the physical effects of cockfighting.

continued from "Cockfighting," page 1
ing is every bit as cruel and brutal as dog-fighting, but is less understood by the public and gets less media attention," said Mooney. "The birds suffer and die in numbers beyond estimate, despite the fact that cockfighting is illegal in 47 states."

Field experts spent two days documenting evidence. Workers transferred 20 birds to be held in evidence to the San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) for their safekeeping. Those charged in the case were responsible for the care of all the other birds until the case's close. Unfortunately, these birds are bred to fight and would not make suitable farm or companion animals.

SDHS had been conducting an investigation for more than two years and had suspected a cockfighting operation on the property. The Society had received anonymous letters, describing the birds and fights in detail, which led them to put the property under surveillance. Undercover officers were sent to the ranch, where they purchased birds and engaged in conversation about cockfighting.

An investigator with SDHS announced, "We're out to send a message to people in this county fighting animals—we know who you are, we know where you are, and we're coming to get you." CSRO Director Phil Snyder says, "We think it would be wonderful if local agencies in the central states region had this same kind of anti-animal fighting spirit." To assist, CSRO is currently working to form state coalitions to support local agencies in effectively combatting animal fighting.

Legislative Update

The 2001 legislative sessions in the our region saw some important victories for animals. We are pleased to include brief descriptions of some of them here. For more information about the animal-related bills pending or recently passed in all 50 states you can check www.hsus.org/programs/government/state.html.

Illinois

S.B. 629 contains numerous provisions, including security bonds to reimburse shelters for costs incurred in large confiscation cases, psychological counseling for animal hoarders and juveniles convicted of cruelty, and increased penalties for cruelty and neglect.

H.B. 2391, the Humane Euthanasia in Animal Shelters Act, forbids shelters from euthanizing dogs and cats by any method other than sodium pentobarbital or properly filtered carbon monoxide. It also allows for the direct purchase of sodium pentobarbital by licensed animal shelters. The law also provides for the training and certification of shelter employees to assure that well-trained individuals perform euthanasia in shelters.

H.B. 2440 adds animal cruelty to the criminal code and increases many penalties related to dogfighting.

S.B. 653 amends the Animal Control Act to require that dangerous dogs be muzzled and leashed whenever in a public place and requires that if a vicious dog is impounded, the animal must be spayed or neutered within 30 days.

Tennessee

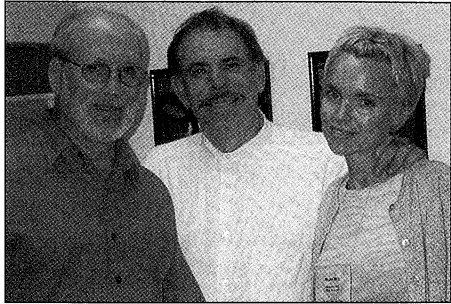
S.B. 194, the Non-Livestock Humane Death Act, requires animal shelters in the state to euthanize dogs and cats only by means of sodium pentobarbital.

continued from "Floods," page 1

Wisconsin, where he conducted an assessment and offered HSUS services.

Thankfully, the spring storms in the upper Midwest did not turn out to be as catastrophic as originally predicted. However, it proved to be a terrific opportunity to put some animal plans to the test and work through any rough patches. We were able to educate pet owners about the importance of having a personal emergency plan that includes their pets. We also established effective protocols for working with other volunteer agencies in Minnesota so that next time—and there will be a next time—our work will be even more effective.

The HSUS has recently published three new disaster-related brochures: "Disaster Preparedness for Pets," "Disaster Preparedness for Horses," and "Disaster Preparedness for Livestock." If you would like copies of these brochures, or other information about disaster planning for animals in your community, contact CSRO.



CSRO Director Phil Snyder (left) with world-renowned artist Peter Max and his wife, Mary, at the recent HSUS legislative fly-in in Washington, D.C. Peter and Mary are very active in animal protection.

Minnesota

After a number of hard years of work, Minnesota now has a law that makes malicious acts of abuse against pets a felony. A bill was also passed that helps protect the public from dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs by requiring that those animals be microchipped.

H.F. 1469, an act authorizing counties to offer bounties for destruction of coyotes, was defeated. This is a big victory for Minnesota wildlife.

Unfortunately, other important efforts, including a felony cruelty bill in Tennessee, pet-friendly license plates to create funds for spay-neuter programs in Illinois and Kentucky, and a pet facilities licensing bill in Wisconsin, did not pass this year.

CSRO Staff Take Part in Focus Groups

Ever wonder who decides which products make it to retail shelves or what factors determine people's beliefs on issues? The answer is often focus groups. In focus groups, market research companies survey citizens from diverse demographic backgrounds. CSRO and HSUS headquarters staff attended two such groups in the Chicago area sponsored by The HSUS. Information garnered will provide insight on the most effective ways to convey information to the public on two issues: the impact of whaling on marine mammals and the environment and cruelties inherent in the fur industry.

Lynn Mooney, CSRO program coordinator, attended the whaling focus group and observed participants discussing whales, the whaling industry, and the international treaty that bans whaling. The facts are that whales are intelligent, air-breathing mammals with complex, dynamic social groups, and their young are dependent on their mothers for milk, comfort, and safety, just as humans are. A common misconception is that the whole whale is consumed, when, in truth, much is wasted.

In 1986, the International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling, although it still allows killing for "scientific" purposes. Japanese whalers exploit this loophole by killing minke whales for "scientific" purposes and then selling the meat as a luxury food in domestic markets. Last year, in direct defiance of the ban, Japan planned to kill



Japanese whalers kill minke whales for "scientific" purposes and then sell the meat as a luxury food in domestic markets.

50 Bryde's and 10 sperm whales and dedicated six whaling ships to the task. No one knows how many Bryde's or sperm whales are left, and both species are considered endangered. According to Dr. Naomi Rose, HSUS marine mammal scientist, it is dangerous to hunt a species whose population is unknown. Norway, which kills whales almost entirely for export, is completely disregarding the ban and has doubled its whaling efforts.

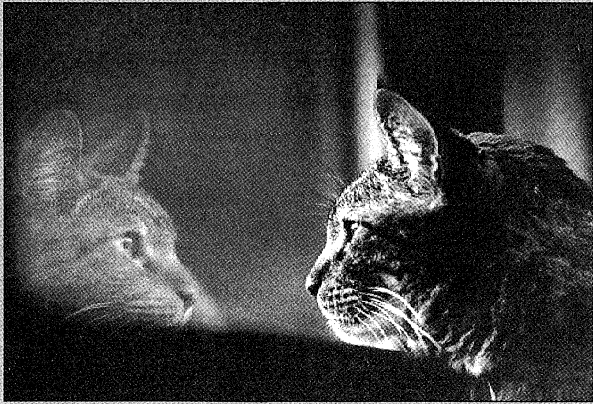
JoAnne Rosenfeld, CSRO administrative assistant, attended the fur focus group. The group discussed what influences buyers of

all ages in their fashion views, including magazines, celebrities, mail-order catalogs, television, and window shopping or seeing items in stores.

Focus group participants talked about issues such as the ways fur animals are killed and whether knowing such information changes the way people look at fur. Fur animals are killed in extremely inhumane ways, such as neck breaking, gassing, poisoning, and electrocution. Most trapped animals are caught with the infamous steel-jaw leghold trap, a device so

Reflect for a moment...

How can I help animals and receive income and tax savings at the same time?

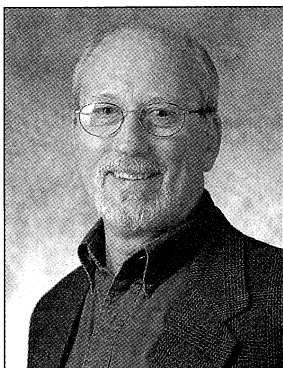


By making a planned giving gift to The Humane Society of the United States, you can assure that animals will receive the protection they need while providing significant tax savings and income to yourself. Naming The HSUS as a beneficiary of your estate or trust demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for future tasks. We will be happy to send our latest information on planned giving and our programs to help animals.

Mail this coupon in the envelope enclosed or send it directly to The Humane Society of the United States, CSRO, 800 W. 5th Ave., Ste. 110, Naperville, IL 60563.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Director's Report



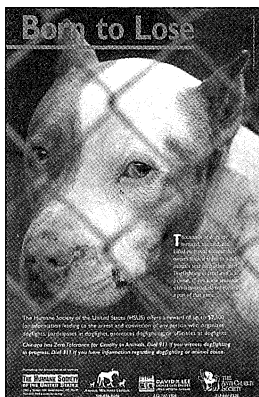
By Phil Snyder

Director of the Central States
Regional Office

So Much Going On

There are so many exciting programs and events that we can't tell you about all of them in depth. But I wanted to be sure to mention a few highlights here.

CSRO has joined with Chicago and its



Chicago Animal Care and Control in a campaign to make the public more aware of the cruelty of dogfighting. Some 5,000 posters were distributed for display at 500

public schools and 200 park district field houses, as well as public libraries, health centers, and other high-traffic locations around the city. Chicago's Anti-Cruelty Society and Animal Welfare League also supported the campaign.

In addition, CSRO plans training for gang violence officers and other Chicago police officials. Incidents of dogfighting have increased in urban settings in recent years. We are pleased that Chicago and its animal welfare community are actively pursuing ways to address the issue.

Contacting HSUS

Write:

HSUS Central States Regional Office
800 W. 5th Ave., Ste. 110
Naperville, IL 60563

Call:

630-357-7015

Fax:

630-357-5725

All around the nation, animal shelters face the same dilemma: How do they provide the best services for the animals and the people of their community within their tight budgets? The HSUS has one solution: Shelters can join its new Shelter Partners program, which provides participating shelters with revenue-generating programs and discounts on shelter-related products, services, and training opportunities. In addition, Shelter Partners will also receive discounts on the annual HSUS Animal Care Expo trade show and HSUS's *Animal Sheltering* magazine.

For more information on the HSUS's Shelter Partners program, contact CSRO or visit www.AnimalSheltering.org.

Shelters around the country will be celebrating National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, November 4-10. I urge you to support any events and programs that your local shelter sponsors during that week—and throughout the year.

Finally, please join us for HSUS's Animal Care Expo, April 3-6 at the Fontainebleau Hilton in Miami Beach, Florida. Expo attracts more than 1,500 animal welfare professionals, offers 42 specialized workshops, seven day-long certificate courses, and more than 100 exhibitors of products and services. If you are concerned with animal welfare, please join us at Expo 2002!

Save This Date!

When: May 29-June 1, 2002

Where: Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas

Why: The HSUS National Conference on Animals in Disasters. Meet hundreds of people involved with caring for animals in disasters. Gain valuable information about disaster planning and response as well as hands-on training. For more information, call 301-258-3063.



Foxes like this one are victims of the fur trade.

continued from "Focus Groups," page 3
torturous that it has been banned in 89 countries, yet it is still widely used in the United States. Annually, more than 30 million animals worldwide are raised on fur "farms," where, prior to being slaughtered for their fur, they are crammed together in intensive confinement, often exhibiting unnatural behaviors such as self-mutilation, cannibalism, and incessant pacing.

Some of the group recalled the 18-month HSUS undercover investigation that exposed the killing of dogs and cats in Asia for fur, including fur trim. (Happily, as a direct result of the investigation, a federal law was passed in 2000 that bans the import, export, and interstate sale of dog and cat fur products in the United States.)

After attending these focus groups and observing firsthand how people perceive messages about animal issues, we have a better idea of how to enlist support for animal protection. We will continue to educate people about whaling, fur, and other important issues.

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